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Preface

With this second issue of *Inter Faculty* we are again delighted to be able to present some of the results of a wide range of research activities carried out under the IFERI program of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tsukuba.

Inter Faculty is not a thematic journal, thus the research studies presented here are all from a transdisciplinary perspective, contributing each in their own way to a reflection on the development, methodology and evaluation of this new type of approach. Such a transdisciplinary approach can provide a new framework with which to address the problems confronting our modern society and the present great upheavals of our world.

To venture across the boundaries of the specific disciplines and explore new avenues of research, however, requires flexibility, imagination and quite some courage. It would certainly seem that our authors possess just such qualities and we are very proud to publish their research which, as it happened this year, all discuss one way or another the underlying issues of ‘transition’ and ‘tradition’.

Under the section on articles:

Andrej BEKEŠ (University of Ljubljana, University of Tsukuba) examines how high school history textbooks treat, or do not treat, the role of state-endorsed language policies during Japan’s period of modernization.

Boštjan BERTALANIČ (University of Tokyo) discusses implications of regime change in political culture, especially with regard to the situation in Slovenia.

Rima HIGA (doctoral student, University of Tsukuba) taking the example of pig farming in Okinawa, argues that perceptions of sensorial values are due to changes in the way modern society operates rather than in the odor per se.

Rie INABA (Doctor of Linguistics, University of Tsukuba) approaches the question of linguistic interpretation and communication through an analysis of the word *ça* in French, showing how this tiny word functions as a channel in speaker conflict situations.

Kyoungtaek LEE (doctoral student, University of Tsukuba), continuing on from the article published in volume 1 of *Inter Faculty*, furthers his research into the role of state language policies, taking the case of China's Confucius Institute.

Ahmed SHAKIL (doctoral student, University of Tsukuba) demonstrates how the opposite concepts of depoliticization and politicization coexist in the context of the Bangladeshi development paradigm.

Nozomi WAKU (doctoral student, University of Tsukuba) approaches philosophical considerations of the relation between word and thought, comparing present values of language to those of Classical China.

As to the two entries of the Research Forum section:

The first documents the activities and projects of the University Program of Slovene Language and Culture in Japan, with a detailed account of the series of conferences and film showings related to the visits of two prominent Slovene authors and film directors. The editors would especially like to thank Jelisava DOBOVŠEK SETHNA for her contribution to this issue.

The second entry gives the proceedings of the third University Cooperation Network Student Forum, organized in September 2010 in Tokyo. Students of different nationalities from the University of Tsukuba as well as students from universities in South-East Europe came together to discuss their respective research projects from the perspective of 'transition'. The Forum was particularly honored to hear a keynote lecture from Nobuhiro SHIBA (Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo) detailing his research journey over the continents of Asia and South-East Europe with regards the representation of history in school textbooks.

The section on Fieldwork Reports is a new addition this year. As its name indicates it is for notes and reports of fieldwork studies which it is hoped will lead to full research projects.

This report is an original study carried out by Elena TSYGALNITSKY (Meiji University) and Veronika CHICHIKASHVILI (University of Tsukuba). It gives an observation and an analysis of signboards on the University of Tsukuba campus with a view to future research into the possible effects of monolingual signboards on students and researchers from non-kanji areas and the concept of anxiety.

In the last section, we have two Book Reviews:

Thomas BRISSON introduces the Japanese version of the *Histoire de France* by Jules Michelet through an interview with the translator, Koichi TACHIKAWA.

The poetess Hiroko OZAKI, invites us to read the anthology of modern poems *One Hundred Poets on Mount Ogura, One Poem Each*.

Finally, *Inter Faculty* is an interactive journal and we would welcome comments from you, our readers, on the present research or related themes for posting under the section on Comments and Discussion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Saburo AOKI
Director, IFERI
March 1st, 2011